

Milwaukee concert incident account from Lizzo stylist Marko Monroe (via Instagram)
Transcription by Minnesota Public Radio

I go down to the pit to film for Lizzo like I normally do every show, and every once in a while, I will go down and get like a front-of-house shot for maybe Instagram. And the next thing you know, some guy comes up to me and was like, "You're not supposed to be here," and I was like, "No, I work for Lizzo; I'm her stylist." And then I just completely get manhandled. He tries to knock my phone out of my hands.

He then grabs my arm and puts it behind my back ... and then he's like manhandling me and then the next thing I know it's like three other guys come, and he's like, "This little fuck, we're going to get this little fuck out of here."

He kept calling me "little fuck," he was like, "No, you need to quit resisting, you need to go the fuck on," and I'm like, "I work here; look at my badge," and he was not listening and he escorted me off the stage.

Next thing I know, I turn around and I hear Shelby [Swain, hair stylist] coming after me and she was like, "Where y'all taking him? What are you doing with Marko? What are you doing?" And they kept moving me forward and kept moving me off the stage.

And I was like, "This is so ridiculous. I work here. This is how you treat the people that are coming to your event? [Lizzo is] performing, I work here, I'm her stylist. I'm out here getting footage for her Instagram; look at my badge." And he was like, "No, little fuck, we're going to take you down."

Next thing I know, I see Shelby come out again and she's like, "Where y'all taking him?" and like, she runs up and this guy chest-bumps her out of the way and then fucking knocks her phone out. And I'm just looking back as I'm getting escorted forward.

And then they take me into a jail cell and they throw me in the jail cell. And once the guy does that, he like has this sort of like ego-driven hurrah moment. And I'm like ... this guy's getting off to something else. ... It was beyond what badge I was wearing or whatever; it was more like he wanted to assert his fucking power where he could at me, physically. ... in the middle of Pride. And maybe when I turned around and he saw I was a big fucking faggot and proud of it, he had a problem. And he just wanted to assert his masculinity on me. And then just fucking manhandle me and I've got fucking bruises on me.

I was in the jail cell and they wouldn't let me go. I was like, "This is so ridiculous." I was so in shock I couldn't even figure out how to use my phone. That's how bad it was. I was just trying to call our tour manager to tell her what was going on.

Meantime, this police officer was trying to get my name and where I live and stuff and asking me all these silly questions. I was like "I work here; I am part of the team," blah blah blah. And then I finally got [the tour manager] on the phone and I told her where I was.

Then finally [the tour manager] came through, and then the thing that really pissed me off is that the guy who manhandled me wanted me to apologize before I could be let out of jail. Now, if that does not scream homophobia one-thousand percent, then I just don't know what does. And I was just praying to the universe that I did not have to fucking apologize to this guy.

The next thing you know, my manager comes through, and she was like "OK, we can walk through." And then I was able to be escorted by the stage manager back behind the stage where I was working out of.